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An Essay

"On the Homœopathic Materia Medica"

Respectfully submitted to the

Faculty

of the

Homœopathic Medical College

of

Pennsylvania

On the first day of February

One thousand eight hundred and fifty seven

By

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of

Canada West.

"When we have to do with an art whose end is the saving of human life, any neglect to make ourselves thoroughly masters of it becomes a crime"

Hahnemann

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On the Homœopathic Materia Medica.

CHAPTER I.

Difficulties on commencing the Study of Materia Medica.

I will not soon forget the moment when I first saw the Homœopathic Materia Medica. My medical education commenced with the perusal of "Cruveilhier's Anatomy" and "Hahnemann's Organon." From the former work, owing to the multiplicity of words and the paucity of illustrations, I learned very little, having, amongst other misconceptions, a fixed idea that the spinous processes of the vertebræ were directed inwards towards the thoracic and abdominal viscera; and from the perusal of the famous Organon I arose having derived more benefit, but mingled with a degree of astonishment at such doctrines as the following:— "Thus

a (primary) psoric eruption of recent origin, in a person not too much weakened, even when it may have extended over the whole body, can be thoroughly cured by means of a dose of Sulphur repeated every seven days, within the space of ten to twelve weeks (with ten to twelve of such globules of the 30th), so that it is rarely necessary, as an additional remedy, to administer a few doses of carbo veg. X° (in like manner given every week) without any external treatment whatever except a frequent change of linen, and appropriate regimen;" [2] and again in Objection :— "In those cases wherein a particular remedy is strongly indicated, but the patient is very weak and irritable, once smelling a globule of the size of a mustard seed, moistened with the medicine, is

2. Note to §246. page 207. Hahnemann's Organon. 3rd American Edition.

safer and more serviceable than when taken in substance, even in the minutest doses of the higher dilutions;"[b] and further on the same idea is enlarged, and the application of medicine by this novel method is extended to all diseases, it being stated that "Homeopathic remedies operate with the most certainty and energy by smelling or inhaling the medicinal aura constantly emanating from a saccharine globule that has been impregnated with the higher dilution of a medicine, and in a dry state enclosed in a small vial."[c]

With these marvels impressed on my mind, and aware of the fact that our Materia Medica was a record of the physiological effects of medicines on the healthy organism, I entered the office of Dr. A. J. Bull on the

b. Note to § 246. page 208. Hahnemann's Organon. 3rd American Edition.

afternoon of a sultry July day in 1854, intending to make inquiries as to Preceptorship, College and similar matters. The Doctor was not in the Office, so I amused myself with turning over the books on the table. Cholera was raging in the town, and the Doctor's absence was prolonged, so I opened the Book-case and took down Hempel's Jahr vol 1 and opened it at pages 240 & 241. Belladonna, and cast my eye in amazement over the serried masses of symptoms contained on these pages. I had previously entertained the opinion that memory would be the great requisite to an accurate knowledge of the Materia Medica, but one glance on that "Manual," so called in bitter irony, convinced me that the memory

of Cyrus the Great would fail to master it.
One of the greatest difficulties of the Homœopathic
Materia Medica arises from the total ignorance
of the Student. In all previous studies
there exists no one shadowing of the
Homœopathic Materia Medica, for nowhere
else have we any attempt at giving the
pure effects of drugs on the healthy organism.
In all Academies and Colleges, Chemistry
Anatomy and Physiology are taught to a
certain extent, and most intelligent men,
and all women whether intelligent or not,
have a more or less correct knowledge
of Disease, but what man, no matter
what his general attainments, has any
knowledge of the effects of Sepia or Sabadilla? Who, even of the most learned
of the Allopathic Professors, can detail

the effects of Natrum Muriaticum? or give the faintest idea of its applications to the cure of disease? It is obvious that since Allopathic Materia Medica consists, mainly of an assemblage of effects "at usum in morbis" that the pathogenetic effects must be totally wanting, or at least only the violent toxicological effects are recorded, and these only as indications to discontinue the drug. Thus Professor George B. Wood of the University of Pennsylvania recommends the discontinuance of Aconite "when it produces a peculiar tingling in the fingers," of Quinine "when the patient has humming and roaring in the ears, and hardness of hearing", and Veratrum "when an itch-like eruption appears" Now these violent effects correspond with the following symptoms

"Aconitum Napellus. – Tingling pain in the fingers even while writing. [d]

China officinalis. – *Ringing. *Humming in the ears. Hardness of hearing. [e]

Veratrum album. – *Cutaneous eruption, resembling itch; °dry itch with nightly itching. [f] "

In truth the Homœopathic Materia Medica is a vast "terra incognita" which the Student approaches with doubt and awe, and fortunate is the Student who receives instruction on this essential branch at the "fons et origo" of practical experience. The Student who commences and concludes his studies at a Homœopathic College has a great advantage over the Student who attends one or two Sessions at an Allopathic College, and then graduates at a Homœopathic College. It is true that the elementary branches are as well taught,

d. Hull's Jahr. page 12. e Hull's Jahr. page 333. f. Hull's Jahr. page 963.

but the great essential of Homœopathic Materia Medica is not taught at all, and the Institutes of Homœopathy are only alluded to in ridicule and misrepresentation. So that the Student has only one Session to devote to Materia Medica, and that Session is his graduating one, and consequently broken by the cares and toils incident to that important event. And the young Graduate commences practice with a very indistinct knowledge of Materia Medica, and has to grope his way painfully and doubtingly for many anxious days. This is no imaginary picture for I have known excellent Students who had never studied Materia Medica till they came to our College to graduate, having previously attended two Sessions at an Allopathic College.

The immensity of the undertaking is another great obstacle to the Student. He is introduced to the study of about Three hundred Medicines, whose pathogenetic effects are recorded on about Four thousand pages presenting a sum total of nearly a Quarter of a Million of Symptoms. No clue is given him by which he may distinguish the most important drugs. Dr Wurzler's gripe-giving pudding may be as important as Aconite, Dr Munn's "Extirpated-skin-of-a-deer-with-the-hair-on" may excel Belladonna, and Dr Young's "Posin" is actually, according to many veracious observers, far-ahead of Sulphur.

CHAPTER II.

Method of Studying the Homœopathic Materia Medica

The distinctive features of a Homœopathic College are the Chairs of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, and of Homœopathic Institutes, Pathology and the Practice of Medicine. True, the Chairs of Surgery and Obstetrics differ very materially from the corresponding Chairs in an Allopathic College, and of these I purpose speaking towards the conclusion of this Essay.

As my subject is Materia Medica, I say nothing of the Institutes of Homœopathy, though that is a tempting subject.

Foremost amongst the means of acquiring a knowledge of the Homœopathic Materia Medica, stands a diligent and careful

attendance on the Lectures delivered from that Chair. Here the results of days of study and of years of practice are presented to the Student, and in one brief hour he can master that, which without assistance, would have taken him years of painful study and research.

Scarcely inferior to attendance on the Lectures is attendance on the "Quiz" generally given by the Professor before proceeding to a new remedy. This brings clearly before the mind's eye, the most prominent features of the drug which was the subject of the former lecture. Similar to this is the Examination in the Hahnemannian Medical Institute in which the Professor follows at some distance the College Lectures on that branch. Still better

than attendance on the "Hahnemannian," is getting appointed "Professor" in that Institute. I have found that a most arbitrary way of mastering Materia Medica, for the "Professor" is "cornered up", to use a vulgar but expressive phrase, and he must know the subject of the "Drug"

And it is a most excellent mental exercise to examine without using notes or wording of any kind, and striving to arrange the matter as it would be in a regular Lecture.

In a subject like our Materia Medica frequent reading is indispensable — not a dull mechanical reading of the symptoms, but an intelligent inward reading — striving to understand the meaning of the symptoms, and as far as possible their

connection. Not attending to the mere symptoms — not striving to commit symptoms to memory — that is beneath contempt — but striving to master the "run of the remedy."

And this can only be done by careful and frequent thought — real thought — not a dull automatic repetition of facts and symptoms, but a vivid life-like imagination of the genius of the remedy.

And this I have found by personal experience is best done by imagining that you have the symptoms of the drug which you are studying, commencing at the "General symptoms", next fixing the "Characteristic Peculiarities," and then proceeding to the various organs and regions of the body according to the Hahnemannic Schema, and imagining that you have

all these symptoms. And when you have concluded, — pause and inquire — how do I feel? By this means the true genius of the remedy is daguerreotyped on the mind in such a way that it never can be obliterated.

Another excellent method is a personal proving of the drug. It is of course impossible to obtain the immense number of symptoms which we find ranged under our principal drugs, and such provings are principally valuable as determining the chronological succession of the symptoms. They are also useful as preparing the Student for the proving of new remedies and thus enlarging our Materia Medica. Another valuable source of information consists in reading standard

works on the Homœopathic Practice of Medicine, and paying close attention to the therapeutic indications laid down. In this manner the characteristic symptoms of a drug are made to stand out in bold relief from the inferior and sympathetic symptoms. Thus the following from Hartmann forms a brilliant picture of Chamomilla :— "If the bilious symptoms be the most prominent, Chamomilla is a principal remedy, especially if the fever originate in violent chagrin or vehemence and be characterized by great general heat, burning of the face and eyes, violent thirst, bitter bilious taste in the mouth, vomiting of a substance which is bitter as bile, thick yellow coating of the tongue, tension of the abdomen, and the hypochondria, colicky

pains in the abdomen accompanied with rumbling, watery, green, yellow evacuations, startings as if an affright, tossing about during sleep, sallow yellowish complexion, excessive irritability and sensibility to pain, painful pressure at the stomach as from a stone, with shortness of breath and anguish."

And the following from my notes of lectures of this session:— "BELLADONNA.— Acts powerfully on the cerebral nerves. Facial neuralgia Pain returns in paroxysms, which is quite different from "periodical." Right side. Pains worse on lying down. Disposed to sleep, but cannot. Delirium attends the pains. Applicable to persons disposed to phlegmonous and erysipelatous inflammation, also to persons of lymphatic temperament and scrofulous habit. Contact and motion

aggravate the pains. New symptoms appear on waking from sleep. Diseases of women and children. Red flushed and very hot face."

Here the run of the remedy is so plainly given that any one may see it, for these symptoms exist more or less in every case in which Chamomilla or Belladonna are indicated.

I have also found it a good method to take notes while reading during the summer reading term, noting down the principal peculiarities of the drug, and also the side of the body for which it has the greatest affinity. In doing so I have generally followed the arrangement given by Dr. Alphonse Teste.

Veratrum Album.

2	Internal Head.	1	Acts generally on the Right Side, but Internal head, face, back and
	External Head	2	arms are Left side. — Colchiaceæ.
1	Eyes	3	A striking analogue of Arsenicum, the principal difference being in the
1	Ears	2	constitution, temperament, and mode of life of the patient. Verat
	Nose	2	grows on the slopes of mountains, and is therefore suited to the lively
2	Face	1	sanguine temperament of mountaineers, while Ars. is suited to the phleg-
2	Teeth		-matic constitution of the inhabitants of low swampy grounds.
2	Mouth & Fauces		Verat. seems to hold a middle rank between Ars. and Nux v. Verat.
	Hypochondria	3	is suited to children, women, and young persons of a sanguine,
2	Abdominal Rings	3	or nervo-sanguine temperament, gay disposition, joyful mood,
	Sexual Organs	2	and who have not be exhausted by long excesses and dissipation.
			CHARACTERISTICS FROM ARS.
2	Neck		Physical depression, as by extreme heat. Coldness, except sometimes
2	Chest	3	of the hands and face. Worse when standing or walking. Gaety.
3	Back		Paroxysms of fainting. Watery stool sometimes without smell
2	Arms	1	The colic is aggravated by walking. Asthma, when walking. Aggg-
2	Legs	3	-ravation of all the pains by motion. Aggravation in the morning
1	General.	2	generally.

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Nux Vomica

2	Internal Head	3	Acts generally on the Right side, but the Eyes, 2 mouth, fauces
3	Eyes	1	4 and Chest are left side. Aphorisms.
	Ears	4	The Vomica nut is principally adapted to persons of a lively
2	Nose.	2	choleric temperament, with black eyes, a brown, yellowish or
1	Face	4	very red complexion, and bilious dry and robust constitution.
2	Teeth.	3	Adapted to the inhabitants of dry, warm and elevated regions.
3	Mouth & Fauces.	2	Opposite of Ars. Heat before the chill, and constipation before
2	Hypochondria	4	the diarrhoea. Complaints arising from a cold, chagrin,
2	Abdomen	2	anger, mental agitations, from a sedentary life generally, or
2	Abdominal Viscera	4	from watching. Venous constitutions disposed to hemorrhoids,
	Sexual Organs	4	hypochondria, melancholia and hysteria. Useful to females
2	Neck	3	when the menses are too early and too profuse. Great
4	Chest	2	nervous weakness, with excessive irritation of the organs of
1	Back	3	sense, especially hearing and sight. Aggravated in the
2	Arms.	3	morning. Intermittent fever, mostly consisting of
2	Legs	4	chilliness, with or without subsequent sweat.
1	General	4	
	Fever.	3	

The ruled columns on the left side denote the degree of action, which the drug has upon the different organs. The figure "1" denotes the lowest degree of action, "2" and "3" a higher degree, and "4" the highest degree. Thus in Nux Vomica the Hypochondria stands thus "2 Hypochondria 4," thus denoting that Nux. has greater action on the right Hypochondria than on the left, and this is supported by experience. Another excellent manner of study is to make a careful comparison of two or more drugs, either with with reference to the entire drug, or to a particular disease.

I subjoin a specimen, which is perhaps the best explanation of my meaning.

In this case I have drawn up the comparison in the disease Hydrophobia, and with the remedies Belladonna, Hyosciamus and Stramonium.

Belladonna.

1. Ineffectual effort to sleep: desires to sleep but cannot.
2. Impetuous burning thirst for liquids, which the patient hardly receives before he thrusts them away; immoderate thirst.
3. Convulsive movements of the extremities, with a desire to run away, and incessant motion of the body.
4. Timidity, alternating with a desire to snap at the bystanders, and to spit around him.
5. Deglutitory efforts produce suffocation, inability to swallow.

Hyoscyamus.

1. Sleep occurs more frequently, which is often interrupted by convulsions, as after a fright.
2. The thirst is considerable, and is mostly a disposition to moisten the mouth on account of the great dryness.
3. The convulsions are more constant than in Belladonna, and the paroxysms of fury seldom disappear momentarily.
4. Not so much a desire to snap at the by-standers and to spit, as a desire to injure them in some other way.
5. The pharyngeal spasms are not so violent as in Belladonna.

Stramonium.

1. He throws himself about in bed, sleepless, and utters piercing shrieks.
2. Unconquerable aversion to water, with constriction and convulsions of the pharynx; extreme dryness of the mouth and fauces.
3. Restlessness, the most violent tonic convulsions, the patient is furious, so that he must be confined; he is delirious without recollection or sense. Violent convulsions on seeing a light, a looking-glass or water.
4. Great desire to bite and tear every thing with the teeth, foams at the mouth and spits frequently.
5. Irresistible desire aversion to water, with constriction and convulsions of the oesophagus.

Another way of making comparisons is to arrange a number of drugs according to their natural families, and then institute comparisons between the various members of each natural family.

A comparison of the mental symptoms is particularly interesting, and often presents the most striking contrasts, as in the family of the Apocineæ, where two drugs Nux vomica and Ignatia amara, in other respects so similar, have mental symptoms very unlike. Another result of these comparisons is, that the natural system of Jussieu is acquired in an easy manner. I will proceed to give a few specimens of these comparisons.

Note. I will place the drugs on opposite pages, for convenience of comparison, and leave the intervening pages blanks. N.

Apocineæ.

Ignatia Amara.

1. Adapted to individuals of great pliancy of character and temper, when sudden changes from mirth to tears prevail, and alternate paroxysms of boldness and timidity, with sadness occasioned by chagrin, such as unhappy love.

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2. Adapted to the diseases of women. "The nurse of females".

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3. Ignatia should be given in the morning.

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4. Acts principally on the left side.

Apocineæ.

Nux Vomica

1. Applicable to the diseases of such men as by their dry and nigorous constitutions, rigid muscles, physical and moral activity, passions, fiery and irritable, or in case of need, tenacious disposition, exhibit a degree of analogy to beasts of prey.

2. Principally adapted to diseases of men

3. Nux vomica should be given at night

4. Acts principally on the Right side.

Cucurbitaceæ

Bryonia Alba

1. Much more suitable for robust individuals, than to weak persons, and suitable to persons accustomed to rich living, with rich blood, firm and resisting flesh.

---

2. Acts principally on the digestive canal, and more particularly on the stomach.

---

3. Both Bryonia and Colocynth are Right side remedies, but Bryonia has less intense action on that side than Colocynth.

Cucurbitaceæ.

Colocynthis

1. Suitable to persons of dejected spirits, peevish, ill-humored impatient mood, also with great anguish.

---

2. Acts principally on the stomach, and still more on the large intestines.

---

3. Both Bryonia and Colocynth are Right side remedies, but Colocynth has more intense action on that side than Bryonia.

During a great part of the present session (1856-57) a number of our Students have met in my room, for mutual examinations on Materia Medica. The examination commenced in the usual manner, paying close attention to the pathogenetic symptoms and conditions of aggravation, and also to the diagnosis between closely analogous drugs. The examination lasted from 30 to 45 minutes, and was followed by a Conversation on the same drug, each Student in succession mentioning something relating to it. In this manner we have passed in review Aconite, Ipecacuanha, Veratrum, Hyoscyamus, Arnica, Nepar, Belladonna, Bryonia, Mercurius, Nux v., Pulsatilla, Cuprum, Chamomilla, Lachesis, Rhus tox, Sulphur, Calcarea, China, Lycopodium, Phosphorus, Sepia, Silicia, Carbo veg. and Pulcamara.

Another means is writing an Essay on some particular drug; and, finally the Keystone of the whole is Clinical experience — not the "experientia fallax" so touchingly mentioned by the Father of Medicine — for experience when preceded by experiment is not fallacious.

CHAPTER III.

Imperfections of the Homœopathic Materia Medica.

Conspicuous amongst the sources of the imperfections of the Homœopathic Materia Medica, we find the ignorance of many of the early provers. It is well known that our great Master was himself a thorough man of science — well versed in ancient and modern languages — a profound Chemist and Physiologist — and the rival of Hippocrate himself in the minute observation of disease and its treatment. But while Hahnemann enjoyed these advantages, did his early followers share them? I do not here mean the gallant band — the flower of Homœopathy — who have covered it with imperishable renown, and whose names are

now "familiar in our mouths as Household words" — but the men who assisted him in his early gropings, say from 1790 when he received the first intimation of the Homoeopathic therapeutic law, till 1812 when the Leipzic School was founded.

It is well known that for almost a score of years Hahnemann had no professional disciples, and that his only assistants were his wife, his family, and a number of non professional friends.

Hahnemann was master and thoroughly master of the physiology and pathology of his day, and he knew that from these assemblages of crazy speculations and crude theories little assistance could be derived towards the formation of a Materia Medica which would really deserve the title of "Pura"

In the absence of such assistance Hahnemann adopted the wise plan of taking down the symptoms in the very words of the provers. But the provings by no means come up to the standard laid down by Hahnemann in the "Lesser Writings," when speaking of the action of medicines in general, and of Belladonna in particular, he says :— "We want to know what organs it deranges functionally, what it modifies in other ways, what nerves it principally benumbs or excites what alterations it effects in the circulation and in the digestive operations, how it affects the mind, how the disposition, what influence it exerts on some secretions, what modification the muscular fibre receives from it, how long its action

basts, and by what means it is rendered powerless"[h] From 1790 till 1805, Hahnemann seems to have been engaged in searching amongst the voluminous Records of Medicine for indications of the effects of remedies on the healthy organism. The task was in vain. It is true that Albrecht von Haller had given a very decided recommendation to prove remedies on the healthy, but only in the records of Toxicology could he find any traces of it, and there the effects were very violent, and disturbed by the action of so-called antidotes.

Therefore in the "Fragmenta de viribus medicamentorum positivis," published in 1805, we have a singular Latin book, containing the remedies China, Ignatia, Aconite, Belladonna and some others, printed in

[h] Lessor Writings, English Edition

large type, and with an index about three times the size of the body of the book, and here the symptoms are derived from poisonings of various kinds — accidental poisonings — poisonings for scientific purposes, and frequently for the purpose of testing the virtue of some prepostrous antidote — intentional poisonings for criminal purposes — and unintentional poisonings by Allopathic physicians. These symptoms are increased by the addition of some provings undertaken by himself and his friends, chiefly with pretty large doses. After 1810, a number of educated physicians joined Hahnemann and hence forward the Materia Medica assumed a more scientific aspect, although the early expressions are in many instances retained.

In some provings we have a number of diseases named with a point of interrogation after them — a kind of dreary parody of Hahnemann's. Thus in the proving of Granatum taken from the Hygeia we find an array of such symptoms as the following:— "° Fainting spells ?? ° Suppuration of the internal organs, particularly the liver ?? ° External inflammatory swellings ?? ° Nose bleeds ?? ° Specks on the Cornea ?? ° Bleareyedness ?? ° Cough with coryza ??", [9] ever the double point of interrogation closing the indication like the Chorus in a Greek Drama.

This I conceive to be a repetition of one of the worst abuses of the Allopathic Materia Medica, and a general adoption of it would plunge Homœopathy into the dusky

[9] Hull's Jahr. page 472.

Images of Empiricism

The imperfections of the Homœopathic Materia Medica have occupied the minds of Homœopathic physicians for a number of years past, and many have been the defects pointed out, and many the reforms which have been proposed, but here, as in other branches of human knowledge, men generally show greater keenness in pulling down than in building up. The conspirators in the reign of James II of England and VII of Scotland were all agreed that the king could be no longer endured, but no one had any pulling power ready to supplant him, so it is with our Materia Medica. Notwithstanding that this subject has engaged the attention of such men as

Piper, Watzke, Helbig, Attomyr, Kentz, Grinker, Arnold, Drysdale, Russell, Black, Teste and many others whose names do not now occur to me, I will endeavour, with all respect to every body, to point out what I conceive to be its defects from arrangement.

In 796 Hahnemann published in Hufelands Journal, an Essay on a new Principle for ascertaining the Remedial Powers of Medicinal Substances, and amongst other doctrines he states:— "Most medicines have more than one action; the first is a direct action, which gradually changes into the second, which I call the indirect secondary action. The latter is generally a state exactly the opposite of the former. In this way most

vegetable substances act." In another remarkable essay, published in 1806, The Medicine of Experience, which may be considered the forerunner of the Organon the same idea again occurs: — "In the action of simple medicines on the healthy body there occur, in the first place, phenomena and symptoms, which may be termed the positive disease, to be expected from the specific action of the medicinal substance, or its positive primary (first and principal) effect. When this is past, there ensues in hardly appreciable transition, the exact opposite of the first proceeds (especially in the case of vegetable medicines) then occur the exact opposite (negative) symptoms constituting the secondary action.

In the Organon the doctrine is again repeated:— "Every agent that acts upon the vitality, every medicine, produces more or less change in the vital force, and causes a certain alteration in the health of the individual for a longer or shorter period. This is termed primary action. Although a portion of the medicinal and vital powers conjointly, it belongs principally to the influencing power. To this influence our vital force endeavours to oppose its own energy. This reaction belongs to our preserving vital force, of which it is an automatic action, and it is termed secondary action or Counter-action."

Various examples of the primary and secondary effects are given in the Organon. I think the following may be taken as a

specimen:— "Expecting liveliness follows the use of strong coffee (primary action) but torpor and drowsiness remain for a long time afterwards (reaction, secondary action) if this be not always again removed for a short time by imbibing fresh supplies of coffee (palliation). After the deep stupified sleep caused by Opium (primary action), the following night will be still more sleepless (reaction, secondary action)." Many illustrations of these effects are given in different parts of the Materia Medica, and in the early editions of the Materia Medica Pura many symptoms are marked as "Secondary". In later editions the term "secondary" is discontinued, and a new phrase "alternating" is used; and in the Chronic Diseases both "secondary"

and "alternating" are dropped altogether, or very rarely used in connection with symptoms formerly designated as such; and in the new remedies though similar symptoms frequently occur neither term is used. It may be well to give a few examples of the "secondary" and "alternating" actions in order to illustrate my meaning. Speaking of Chamomilla Hahnemann says "All symptoms of constipation of the bowels are secondary action, i.e. reaction of the organism against the effect of Chamomilla to produce diarrhea in its primary action."

Of Sarsaparilla he says that the diuresis is "secondary" action, and in speaking of the same medicine, in the Chronic Diseases no mention is made of it being "secondary."

The examples of the "alternating" action are not so numerous, but still can be readily found. Thus of Aurum he mentions that the symptom, "gaiety and good humour," is in opposition to "melancholy and low spirits". It is evident that Hahnemann's views as to the primary and secondary effects underwent a change, and that instead of considering the primary symptoms alone available in a therapeutic point of view, he considered all symptoms arising from the drug as indications for the remedy.

These ideas of Hahnemann's exercised a pernicious influence upon the manner in which he recorded the admirable provings which remain as an enduring monument of his genius; and instead

of giving as connected pictures of the medicinal diseases, he cut the symptoms from their natural connection, and distributed them into what is called a "Scheme", arranging them under the various and regions of the body.

If a writer on the Practice of Medicine when describing a disease of fixed character as Variola or Scarlatina were to omit the usual method of giving the symptoms in the order of their occurrence, and arrange the symptoms with reference to the organ or region in which they occur; and in addition to this, if he were to make confusion worse confounded by massing twelve or fourteen diseases together in one indiscriminate heap, his book

would not be very useful, however curious it might be. Now the only difference between a natural disease and a medicinal disease is the exciting cause, and it seems to me that the same method should be preserved in recording a medicinal disease, as is adopted in describing a natural disease.

CHAPTER IV.

Reform of the Homeopathic Materia Medica.

I feel a degree of hesitation on approaching this part of my subject, but as an Essay on the Homeopathic Materia Medica would be incomplete without some notice of the subject of Reform, I will attempt it.

I think that a primary and radical defect of our Materia Medica as at present arranged is the isolation of symptoms from their connections, and their arbitrary arrangement into organs and regions as described in Chapter III. The symptoms which usher in the medicinal disease should be carefully noted, then the increase of the disease, shown in alterations of sensation and function and in

objective and subjective symptoms, and lastly the decline of the disease, and the after-effects, if any. In this manner we would be furnished with clear and distinct images of ~~natural~~ medicinal diseases, and we would then find the meaning of the apparently contradictory symptoms which we find under each remedy. I say "apparently contradictory symptoms", for I do not believe that they are really so, for it is evident that the urinary symptoms of Cannabis, for instance, will vary just in proportion as the drug has or has not exercised influence on the kidneys in a particular proving.

Again the apparently contradictory symptoms are closely similar to what we meet in natural diseases. Thus in the case of

In

Inflammatory fever we have coldness followed by heat, and here Aconite is usually the remedy, and as is well known the pathogenetic symptoms of Aconite are developed in the same chronological order. No one thinks of attributing the hot stage of Inflammatory fever to the re-action of the organism, and surely the hot stage of the Aconite fever is just as little attributable to it. And these same symptoms of Aconite are just the ones which principally indicate the remedy according to the unanimous opinion of the most experienced Homeopathy and hence it is evident that if the primary symptoms alone form the true therapeutic indication, the symptoms of chilliness cold &c are alone curable by Acon.

the sad weeping mood with whining and complaining, and accompanied with great prostration of body and mind, which forms so prominent a symptom of Coffea Cruda is a so-called secondary symptom, and succeeds the agreeable exaltation of the intellectual and moral faculties and liveliness of spirits which characterizes the primary symptoms

In speaking of the necessity of having a careful history of the drug disease with the symptoms arranged in chronological order, Dr Alphonse Teste remarks:— "For instance, somebody complains of sleep-lessness; he is restless, talkative, the cheeks are flushed, the extremities cold, etc. Is it Coffee that he should take? Perhaps..

In questioning him we learn that this

state of agitation has followed a sort of coma, or even somnolence only, which had lasted one or two days, etc. Well, on this simple hint, I affirm that it is not coffee that he must have, opium alone will quiet him, and will restore his sleep; I say this from my own experience. Another patient, on the contrary, is sad, depressed in spirits and strength, drowsy; he is moreover costive, chilly, irritable, etc.; but this group of symptoms was ushered in by an excess of foolish mirth. Hence, I conclude that, notwithstanding these present symptoms, it is coffee he must have, and not by any means, opium. I need not say why. These cases evidently imply a general rule, and explain the fact that

in a number of cases, where not opium, but the foxglove, especially in phthisis, or musk, belladonna, henbane, etc., were given, and effected a cure, the contraria principle may have seemed to succeed, but where in reality the cures were effected in conformity with the law similia similibus. This shows how valuable for the homoeopathic physicians would become all indications derived from a historical report of drug diseases, with an accurate distinction of the primary and secondary effects of drugs."

Professor Wm. Tod Helmuth in writing on Fungus Articulorum says:— "Of imperfectness of the above treatment the author is fully aware; but it should not create surprise, when the present unscientific

arrangement of our Materia Medica is remembered. So long as catalogues of disjointed symptoms, recorded with total neglect of the order of occurrence, and with entire disregard of all pathological inquiry, have to be examined; and when, together with these circumstances, the void in our literature, occasioned by the absence of recorded surgical diseases, treated in accordance with the law of Hahnemann, is recollected, any result less defective could not be anticipated. We are happy, however, to remark on this place, that such impediments to the advancement of true science will, in a short period of time, be removed in a great measure, by the publication of a complete Materia Medica

by our English brethren, in which symptoms will be arranged in connection with those diseases with which they are most frequently associated."

Dr Henry Thomas J Chester England, a graduate J our School, informs me that the Materia Medica alluded to is now in preparation. In 1852 the first part J the "Hahnemann Materia Medica" was published in London. This contains Aconite, Asclepias and Kali Bichromicum arranged with reference to the succession J the symptoms, and also containing the usual arrangement under organs and regions. The work has not been popular, either in England or the United States; it appears to be cumbrous and unwieldy, although not without merit.

The following group may be taken as a fair specimen of the arrangement:- "Aft twenty-four drops, burning on the sides of the tongue, dryness of the palate and constriction of the oesophagus, not relieved by drinking cold water. Constant flow of saliva into the mouth, frequent rising from the stomach, and no appetite. Vertigo when walking or driving; the tongue felt like leather; great prostration; heat of skin; flying shoots along the sternum and between the ribs; sleep restless, broken, unrefreshing; though he drank much through the night he made no water; next morning he passed red urine, with burning along the urethra; he felt better after breakfast, but soon afterwards, when in the open air, he had a severe attack of rigor over the back and

chest, followed by great heat (with headache), which the least movement brought back; then came on violent cough, with painful shooting in different parts of the chest, compelling him always to lie on the back, and preventing him lying on either side; the night was restless; perspiration after night, with relief; urine as before. The next day at three p.m. he had another attack of fever; pulse 96; frequent cough, with severe pains from the shock through the chest; expectoration sometimes brownish-red, rust-coloured. After this he got gradually better." Here we have a very good group of thoracic symptoms of Aconite, and meeting with such a group of morbific symptoms, we can apply the remedial agent with the almost mathematical

certainly so much desiderated. But how different would have been the case if the usual method had been pursued and an elaborate schema, more resembling an Index than a rational account of a long-disease, given. I think that the present arrangement would require to be retained, as, if the succession of the symptoms were alone adopted, it would be almost impossible to find any particular symptom of which we may be in search. Under the present Materia Medica would be used pretty much as an Index, while the succession of the symptoms would be used as a principal study. Hahnemann's knowledge of the succession of the symptoms was the great secret of his therapeutic skill, and if

the order of succession was well known there is nothing to prevent them from attaining to much greater skill than we can at present reach.

A great want in our Materia Medica is a careful and correct record of clinical cases. Hahnemann was of opinion that indications drawn from clinical experience were much inferior to those drawn from provings. This is certainly true, but nevertheless a good record of clinical cases would confirm the pathogenetic symptoms. Hahnemann undoubtedly had an immense number of cases, but instead of publishing them in connection with his Materia Medica, or in a separate volume, he cut the cases into separate symptoms, and published

them along with the pathogenetic symptoms sometimes mixed with them, and sometimes preceding them. Witness the immense array of symptoms placed in front of Calcarea Carbonica, Sulphur and other antipsorics. Writing on this subject in the preface to Aconina Hahnemann says:— "The affections which I have indicated in the preface to every remedy, are not to be considered as names of diseases, but merely as isolated symptoms, which have either decreased or disappeared by using the remedy under whose head they are mentioned. These affections have not always been indicated with the necessary correctness. They should never be relied upon as indicating the affections which may be cured by this

special remedy; they are merely mentioned in order to inform the reader that experience, obtained at the bed-side of the patient, has proved certain remedies, which had been chosen agreeably to their pathogenetic symptoms, curative in the disease for which they had been administered."

Such symptoms are certainly valuable even in their isolated form, but how much more valuable would they have been if they had been arranged in the form of cases, and not cut up at random, apparently to correspond to the Materia Medica. Hahnemann published a few cases apparently to tantalize us, for the cases he so characteristic that it is subject I regret that a whole volume had not been written.

The following are specimens of the cases alluded to :— "Sch——, a bushwoman, somewhat above 40 years old, had been more than three weeks unable to pursue her occupations, when she consulted me the 1st September 1875.

1. On any movement, especially at every step, and most on making a false step, she had a shoot in the sacrolumbus (sic), that comes, as she avers, every time from the left side.

2. When she lies she feels quite well, then she has no pain anywhere, neither in the side, nor in the sacrolumbus.

3. She cannot sleep after three o'clock in the morning.

4. She relishes her food, but when she has ate a little she feels sick.

5. Then the water collects in her mouth, and runs out of it, like the water-hock.
6. She has frequently empty eructations after every meal.
7. Her temper is passionate, disposed to anger. — Whenever the pain is severe she is covered with perspiration. — The catamenia were quite regular & fortnightly since.

Prescription. Rx. Alb. ℥ gtt.

W— e, a weakly pale man of 42 years, who was constantly kept by his business at his desk, came to me on the 27th December 1775, having been already ill five days.
1. The first evening he became, without manifest cause, sick and giddy, with much eructation.

2. The following night (about 2 a. m.) some vomiting.

3. The subsequent nights some evacuations.

4. To-day also sick sensations & fetid and sourish taste.

5. He felt as if the food by crude and undigested in his stomach.

6. In his head he felt vacant, hollow and confused, and as if senseless therein.

7. The least noise is painful to him.

8. He is of a mild soft patient disposition.

Perception Cuts 1/2 right.

The only record of Clinical cases with which I am acquainted is "Hunter's Therapeutics" which is defective and antiquated.

Another reform zealously advocated by many of the chiefs of our school, is the

the classification of drugs into groups and families, based on the similarities of the symptoms, and on the classes of diseases in which clinical experience has verified these symptoms. So far as I am aware three methods have proposed respectively by Williamson, Teste and Boenninghausen. I have no hesitation in stating that I prefer the classification of Williamson. I commenced the study of the Homoeopathic Materia Medica under his auspices, and I have become attached to that system. According to this system the Materia Medica is divided into fifteen groups as follows:—

1. Acon. Puls. Stapfy. Sulph. Sep. Cann.
2. Bry. Lyc. Phos. Alum. Rhus.
3. Bell. Merc. Lach. Calc.

4. Ars. Verat. Cupr. Spec. Sabadilla
5. Am. Hyper. Kreos. Urtica. Symph. Calend. Ranun.
6. Nux v. Bryon. Ign. Pod. p. Spigelia.
7. Bapt. c. Bapt. tinc. Carbo an. Carb. veg.
8. Hyos. Stram. Op. Coffea.
9. Calc. c. Sil. Graph. Hepar s. c.
10. Iodine. Brom. Spongia. Kreas.
11. China Phos ac.
12. Nitric ac. Mur ac. Sul. ac. Flour ac. Oxal ac.
13. Kali bich. " brom. " carb. " chl. " hyd. " nitr.
14. Natrum carb. " mur. " sulph. " nitr.
15. Magnesia carb. " mur. " sulph.

Here the resemblance of the various groups is sufficiently obvious. The first three remedies of the 1st Group are Acon. Bals and Staphy. and from their being all members of the natural family Ranunculaceæ, we might expect a similarity, and

we find that a similarity actually exists.

The 9th group is also composed of near relatives, and no one will doubt the relationship of Calc. c. Sil. Graph and Hepar s. c. The 10th group is principally composed of chemical relatives, and on investigating the symptoms of all the groups, the resemblance is seen.

The arrangement adopted by Teste is somewhat similar. The number of drugs is one hundred, divided into twenty groups. Many of these resemble the groups given above especially the 5th group of Teste, which is almost identical with the 9th of Williamson. The comparison is interesting and shows that similar conclusions have been reached by similar observers.

Williamson		Teste	
		1.	Pulsatilla
2	Silicia	2.	Silicia
3	Graphites	3.	Graphites
1	Calcarea Carbonica	4.	Calcarea Carbonica.
		5.	Phosphorus
4	Hepar S. C.	6.	Hepar S. C.

The arrangement of Boenninghausen is more complicated and cumbrous than either of the above. In it every remedy in the Materia Medica is mentioned, along with its analogous remedies, and, as might be expected from Boenninghausen, "their name is Legion."

The method adopted in all these systems is to select a prominent drug as a type, and then arrange the

analogous remedies under it, placing those which have the closest relationship nearest to it. It has frequently been said that our Materia Medica cannot be classified, and that each drug must be studied singly and alone. To this I answer that if Antoine Laurent de Jussieu has reduced all plants to natural families on the principle alluded to; if the illustrious Cuvier has been able to classify the giant animals of a world gone by, and if the stars of heaven have been described and arranged, we, the followers of our indomitable Master should not shrink from the task of reducing the Chaos of our Materia Medica to order.

It has been asked, why we are able to use our Materia Medica with the skill with which we wield it? To this I answer,

I. The united experience of hundreds of good observers has given us the characteristic symptoms which run, as Bönninghausen says, "like the red thread in the ropes of the English Navy, through the whole pathogenesis of every single drug. An excellent example of this I have given at page 18 of this essay.

II. Many excellent therapeutists have recorded groups of symptoms equally characteristic, as, for example the group on page 17.

III. Many of Hahnemann's symptoms are really short cases of disease reduced to its most essential elementary symptoms, and divested of all merely sympathetic symptoms

or after-effects. For instance, the following group is Camphor:— "When walking, he staggers to and fro; he leans against something, his senses vanish, the limbs being rigid and extended, the shoulders drawn backwards, the hands clenched; afterwards all the parts of the body are stretched and stiff, with the head bent sideways, the lower jaw rigid and wide open, the lips drawn inwards, the teeth clenched, eyes closed, with unceasing distortions of the muscles of the face, cold all over, and breathless, for a quarter of an hour."

CHAPTER V.

Importance of the Study of Materia Medica.

Theophrastus von Hohenheim, better known under his classic name of Paracelsus, who flourished about a century and a half before Hahnemann enunciated therapeutic doctrines which differ but little from those of Hahnemann.

In a once famous but now forgotten treatise "Von der Astronomey" he states:—

"The nature of the arcana is, that they shall go directly against the properties of the enemy, as one combatant goes against another. Nature wills it that in the combat stratagem shall be employed against stratagem etc, and this is the natural case with all things

on earth; in medicine, also, the same rule prevails. The physician should let this be an example to him. As two foes go out to the combat, who are both cold or both hot, and who attack one another both with the same weapon: as the victory is, so also is it in the human body; the two combatants seek their aid from the same mother, that is, from the same power."

And again he says in the "Archidoxis":— "What makes jaundice that also cures jaundice and all its species. In like manner, the medicine that shall cure paralysis must proceed from that which causes it; and in this way we practice according to the

method of cure by arcana."

Albrecht von Haller, in the preface to the Swiss Pharmacopoeia gives the most decided opinion that it is necessary to prove remedies on the healthy in order to ascertain their mode of action in disease, but notwithstanding the rationality of the advice, and the great celebrity of von Haller none of the contemporary physicians took his advice. Like the aspirant to medical honours in one of Molière's admirable plays, who on being asked "why Opium caused sleep," answered that "it caused sleep in virtue of its power to cause sleep," Allopathy are quite content to accept the "vires in morbis", and complacently repose on the will-o'-the-wisp

denominated "the wisdom of our ancestors."

Thus we see that Paracelsus enunciated the Homœopathic therapeutic law "Similia Similibus Curantur", while von Haller stated an inevitable corollary "Experientia in Corpore Sano".

Paracelsus failed for want of the knowledge of the effects of drugs on the healthy organism, though he dimly alludes to this; and if von Haller had experimented with drugs, still he would have failed in their application for want of "Similia Similibus Curantur"

To Hahnemann must be accorded the glory of combining these two great laws, and as a result of the practical application of the "Experientia in Corpore Sano" we are presented with

an immense fund of information which must ever be of an all important nature to the Homoeopath.

No matter how well qualified a physician may be on all other points, if he is weak on the one point of Materia Medica, he is not fit to contend with disease — he does not deserve the title of physician.

On the other hand the physician, who, while paying due attention to all other branches, yet makes the Materia Medica the one peculiar study of his life, is really a friend of Humanity and deserves the honorable rank of physician.

It is frequently urged that the difficulties of the undertaking are almost insuperable, but here as in other

branches of knowledge. "Where there's a Will, there's a Way," and though probably but one in a World's life time can be a Hahnemann, yet by industry and perseverance we all can attain a most respectable knowledge of that one indispensable branch.

But this is not to be done by permitting the Golden hours of Studentship to pass by unimproved. "What is Truth" the Jackle Roman, asked nor waited for reply, and the veteran in Homeopathy can point to our pure Materia Medica and say "this is Truth," and the Student who faithfully studies during his Studentship, and loses no opportunity of conversing on the subject, and uses

all means of improvement in his power is really fitting himself for performing that "first and sole duty of the physician of restoring health to the sick" so touchingly referred to by our revered Master.

Then when the dreaded epidemic sweeps over our land, when thousands are falling victims, and impotent Allopathy, unable to arrest the fatal march, sits mumbling and muttering a ghastly dead man's tale of statistics and percentages, then the Homoepath, strong in his therapeutic law, and confident in his knowledge of Materia Medica, can stand in the breach between the Destroyer and his victims, even

though like my countrymen at Culloden he is

"Marshalled for his latest battle,
Not to conquer, but to die."

CHAPTER VI.

Selection of the Remedy.

The rule for the selection of the homœopathic remedy is thus given by Hahnemann:—"To effect a mild certain and permanent cure, choose in every case of disease a medicine which can itself produce an affection similar to that sought to be cured."

Various other renderings of the rule have been given by other Homœopaths, and perhaps that of D^r^ Teste is as good as any:—"The whole code of modern therapeutics is reduced to this precept: To administer for the use of the sick, the medicine which produces upon the healthy a totality of symptoms

the most similar to the totality of symptoms presented by the sick."

So far the business seems to be plain sailing, and it would seem the physician has only to take a careful record of the symptoms presented by the patient, turn to his Materia Medica, select the most similar remedy, and then apply the remedy to the disease somewhat after the manner of "the two triangles which have two sides of the one equal to the two sides of the other, each to each, and likewise the angle contained by the two sides of the one equal to the angle contained by the two sides of the other; then the bases or third sides are equal, the two triangles are equal, and the

remaining angles of the one are equal to the remaining angles of the other each to each, viz. those to which the equal sides are opposite." But frequently when the physician supposes that he has "cured", as the phrase runs, the symptoms of disease with the symptoms of the remedy he finds that he is unable to exclaim "Q. E. D." and not the least interesting of the practical points of Homoeopathy is the manner of selection of the remedial agent.

Hahnemann states in § 18 of the Organon:—

"The totality of the symptoms is the sole indication in the choice of the remedy."

§ 18. From this incontrovertible truth, that beyond the totality of the symptoms there is nothing discernable in diseases by which they could make known the nature of

the medicines they stand in need of, we ought naturally to conclude that there can be no other indication whatever than the ensemble of the symptoms in each individual case to guide us in the choice of a remedy", and the opponents of Homœopathy often accuse us of only attending to the symptoms, and disregarding the exciting cause, temperament and constitution of the patient, but the §5 of the Organon disproves this completely :— "

On the cure of disease, it is necessary to regard the fundamental cause, and other circumstances.

§5. When a cure is to be performed, the physician must avail himself of all the particulars he can learn, both respecting the probable origin of the

acute malady, and the most significant points in the history of the chronic disease, to aid him in the discovery of their fundamental cause, which is commonly due to some chronic miasm. In all researches of this nature, he must take into consideration the apparent state of the physical constitution of the patient, (particularly when the affection is chronic) the disposition, occupation, mode of life, habits, social relations, age, sexual functions, etc. etc."

In § 153. of the Organon Hahnemann tells us what kind of symptoms we are to pay most attention to in the selection of the remedy:—"

What kind of symptoms ought chiefly to be regarded in selecting the remedy.

§ 153. "In searching after a homœopathic

specific remedy — that is to say, in making a comparison of the entire symptoms of the natural disease with those produced by known remedies, in order to discover among the latter an artificial morbific power resembling the natural disease that is to be cured — we ought to be particularly and almost exclusively attentive to the symptoms that are striking, singular, extraordinary, and peculiar, (characteristic) for it is to these latter that similar symptoms, from among those created by the medicine, ought to correspond, in order to constitute it the remedy most suitable to the cure. On the other hand, the more vague and general symptoms, such as loss of appetite, headache, weakness, disturbed sleep, uncomfortableness, &c.,

mit little attention, because almost all diseases, and medicines produce something as general."

Hahnemann's advice as to the manner of selecting the remedy therefore amounts to this. The physician is to take a careful record of the symptoms, and then to select from his Materia Medica a remedy which produces similar symptoms, also having regard to the exciting cause, for § 7 of the Organon, already quoted is a clear concession in favour of Etiology. It cannot escape the attention of the most superficial observer that our Materia Medica is principally composed of subjective symptoms — that is symptoms experienced by the patient, but not perceptible to the physician; while the objective symptoms

which pathologists seem to consider as the diagnostic marks of particular diseases, are comparatively rare.

The objective symptoms of the remedy are easily compared with the objective symptoms of the patient; but when the subjective symptoms of the drug, come to be compared with the subjective symptoms of the patient, the case is totally changed, and the difficulty is much increased. The business of the Homeopath therefore is to ascertain the characteristic symptoms of the subjective symptoms; and in doing this three points must be attended to, and these may be summed up in three aphoristic words. They have been of cardinal importance to me, so I will put them in

capitals :—

HOW ?
WHEN ?
WHERE ?

HOW ?— The precise nature of the sensation whether burning (as Ars.), shooting (Bry. and Kali carb.), tearing (Rhus tox.) or whatever it may be.

WHEN ?— This refers to the condition of occurrence ; as ; when does it occur? what makes it worse ? What makes it better ? When does it cease ?

WHERE ?— The precise seat of the pain, and that not only the mere topographical seat, but also the tissue, organ and structure involved. Thus the affinity of Belladonna for mucous membranes, of Aconite for

the muscular system, and J Bryonia and Rhus for the serous structures is well known.

All these various points must be in the mind of the physician, although it does not follow that he asks these questions "secundum artem"

CHAPTER VII.

Importance of Elementary Studies.

A Canadian fellow student of 1854 was much in the habit of asserting:—"If a man knows Materia Medica thoroughly, he knows how to treat all disease," until a witty Englishman who is now upholding the honour of our school amongst the M.R.C.S.'s L.R.C.P.'s and M.R.C.S.E.'s of England, completed the verse and sang:—

"If a man knows Materia Medica thoroughly,
He knows how to treat all disease
As for Anatomy Physiology and all that bothers,
He may let them alone if he please."

A translation of this in dubious Latin was in circulation among the students:—

"Si homo cognovit Materia Medica perfectus" &c.
Now though I admit readily that
"If a man know Materia Medica thoroughly,
he knows how to treat all disease."
still I will endeavour to show
"he ja Anatomy, Physiology and all that bothers,
he can not let them alone if he please."
for it is perfectly clear that if a man
neglect what is commonly but
erroneously called the "elementary"
branches, he is likely to turn out a
mere Aconite-inflammation, Belladonna
congestion man — a Doctor Dei Gratia
who is quite likely to select a remedy
from what may be called the peripheral
symptoms, and neglect the central symp-
toms, and he is likely to be a haphazard
happy-go-lucky practitioner.

Prominent amongst the branches which claim the attention of the young Student of Homœopathy are found the Institutes of Homœopathy.

On this subject many treatises have been written by Hahnemann, Hartmann, Kan, Rudgeon, Teste, Joslin, Holcombe and many others, and a number of Lectures is annually delivered in our College.

By the Institutes of Homœopathy we understand the enumeration and elucidation of the Homœopathic law of Cure and of the various practical rules and theories which are either ~~practical~~ necessary corollaries to that law, or have been appended to it by Hahnemann and his disciples.

The Institutes of Homoeopathy therefore include a Biography of Hahnemann, since Homoeopathy bears the evident impress of the moral peculiarities of its Founder — an examination of the Homoeopathic principle in Medicine previous to the time of Hahnemann — the physiological and pathological basis of Homoeopathy — the various theories which have been originated to explain the action of Homoeopathic remedies, including that remarkable explanation of Hahnemann's in the Organon, of the stronger medicine overcoming the weaker disease — the law of the Homoeopathic aggravation — a consideration of the doctrine of Isopathy, expressed in the formula "Agendis Agendis Quantum"

— the physiological proving of medicines as a means of carrying the therapeutic law into practical effect — the doctrine of Psora as a cause of chronic diseases — a consideration of the various actions of remedial agents, primary, secondary and alternating — the theory of Dynamization — the manner of selecting the remedy — Homoeopathic pharmaceutics and posology — manner of administering the remedy — frequency of repetition — necessity of alternating remedies — the diet and regimen used by Homoeopathists — the local administration of remedies — the necessity of giving more than one medicine at a time, and many other subjects. The mere recital of these subjects proves how

necessary a correct knowledge of them must be to the Homoeopathic Student.

The benefits resulting to Materia Medica from the study of Chemistry are not perhaps self-evident, but a little reflection will make them clear. It is, then, important as a means of ascertaining and confirming the family relationship of drugs. Thus, by this means we know that Nux vomica, Ignatia Amara and Brucea antidysenterica are near relatives, depending upon the same proximate principle — Strychnine — and differing in their effects upon the human organism in consequence of the greater or less amount of that proximate principle and of other

constituents. Another benefit is the power of judging of the genuine character of Homœopathic medicines.

In the onset of the career of Homœopathy, there were few pharmaceutists and these were perhaps reliable, and physicians mostly prepared their own remedies. But now when Homœopathy is flourishing Homœopathic pharmacies are approximating to the description given by Paracelsus:— "The apothecaries are so false and dishonest, that they lead the know-nothing doctors by the nose. If they say, 'this is so and so,' Dr Wiseacre says, 'Yes, Master Apothecary, that is true.' Thus one fool cheats the other: Apothecary quid-pro-quo gives Dr Wiseacre

medium for balsams; God help the poor patients that come under their hands!" In many cases we are able to use the appropriate chemical tests for the low intimations of such remedies as Aurum Chyentum &c, and it is well known that the one millionth part of a grain of Iodine can be detected by a solution of common starch producing a beautiful deep blue tint. And occasionally medicines are presented to the physician which are chemical impossibilities, as in a remarkable instance related by Professor Williamson in which Arsenic Acid came from Germany in glass vials, in which from its well known affinity

for Silicon it is impossible it can be kept. An accidental illustration of the benefits of Chemistry occurred in our College a few days ago of which I subjoin an account.

"Observations on the effects of a series of Galvanic shocks on Alfred R Davis 3rd Course Student of Homoeopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania. Jan 15th 1857.

After a series of pretty smart shocks ..... Rash on the body especially on the chest: bright scarlet red: on pressing the finger on the skin the redness disappears, and on returning fills up from the periphery to the centre: small elevations are perceived, not pointed but rough, and on drawing the skin tense, the redness

disappears, but the roughness remains:
On the chest the eruption is well-developed, and almost continued, the natural skin appearing in white spots, like islands amongst the red; on the abdomen the eruption is more isolated, and gradually passing into the red: on the back of the hand the eruption is concentrated, and distinctly marked: the eruption appears only on the back of the hands, not on the hands.

The skin is hot to the person, and also to the observer: violent itching relieved by scratching, by pressure, and by cold: itching on the abdomen, but not on the arms: on the back of the hands but not on the palms.

Pulse usually 78, but five minutes

after the shock it was 108, and 25 minutes after, when I made the observations, it was 112, this was confirmed by Dr. F. H. Potter: pulse small, quick and occasionally intermittent. The person has usually acne rosacea on the neck, and a few pimples on the forehead, but the eruption appears slightly on the forehead. On Jan 22nd the acne rosacea and pimples had disappeared in a great degree.

Of the advantages resulting to Materia Medica from the study of Anatomy and Physiology, it would at first sight seem almost unnecessary to speak; but as a number of Doctors Dei Gratia, who set themselves up as "Judes Offensores", assert, amongst the insane ingenuities,

, that it is unnecessary to study Anatomy and Physiology, it may be as well to say a few words.

As Materia Medica is the crown and glory of Scientific Medicine, so are Anatomy and Physiology the only sure foundations, and whenever a physician is ignorant of these "elementary" branches, it is presumptive evidence that he cannot be a good Therapeutist.

Our Homeopathic Materia Medica is an assemblage of pathogeneses, and each pathogenesis is an account of the various disorders produced in the human organism by that particular drug. Now in order to appreciate and understand these disordered actions, it is evident that

it is necessary to understand the healthy structure and healthy action of the organism; and a knowledge of these constitutes Anatomy and Physiology.

Toxicology aids the Homœopathic Materia Medica very much. In the best works on Toxicology we find accounts of cases of poisoning, which form as it were grand outlines for our remedies, the finer shades of which must be filled up by the "experientia in corpore sano." Toxicology, or rather what may be called Toxicological Anatomy, is also useful as showing in what tissues a drug has specific affinity; and by comparing the appearances noticed after death by poisoning with the appearances noticed after death by

disease the application of a particular drug to the cure of a particular disease can readily be ascertained and confirmed. Thus the appearances of the brain after poisoning by Belladonna are exactly similar to the appearances observed after death from Encephalitis.

CHAPTER VIII.

Application of Materia Medica to other branches.

I do not desire to approach this the closing portion of my pleading task in a boastful or defiant spirit, not with "a rustling of proud banner-folds, a peal of stormy drums" — but I simply desire to point out the applications of the Homeopathic Materia Medica to the various practical branches of Medicine.

Little did Hahnemann imagine, when making that first experiment with Cinchona bark, that he was commencing a work which would make its influence felt in Physiology, Surgery, Anatomy and all other branches.

The application of Materia Medica to Toxicology may be summed up in a few words. In our Materia Medica is included almost every virulent poison — Aconite, Belladonna, Nux Vomica, Veratrum, Conium, Opium, Cherophorus, Cantharides, Hyoscyamus and Stramonium. Now if the Student faithfully studies Materia Medica, he is, perhaps unconsciously, acquainting himself with the effects of these poisons, and of course fitting himself to discriminate cases of poisoning when they occur. I need not state that the means which a Homœopathic Physician adopts when called to a case of poisoning are precisely similar to those adopted by an Allopathic

Physician under similar circumstances. On this point Dr Teste tells a witty story: — "What would you prescribe" said an Allopathist to me one day, "to an unfortunate man who had just swallowed a couple of hundred grains of nitrate?"

"Three hundred grains of magnesia," replied I, without hesitation. "Why not some of the deliquium?" said my interrogator, jeeringly. Because, before combating the disease, it is necessary to destroy the cause, when this cause still exists; because, in prescribing three hundred grains of magnesia, I do not practice medicine but Chemistry; because, in such a case, it is neither to the age, sex, constitution, or

temperament, or even to the sufferings of the patient, but only to the quantity of poison swallowed that I proportion the remedy, or rather the antidote.

In this I only conform to the old precept, tolle causam, &c.; a precept which, by the way, is only absolutely true in Jargon School; for notwithstanding the removal of the cause, the disease will have its course; then medicines will succeed to the use of antidotes, and the infinitesimals, worthless as they may seem to you, will then show their power."

The benefits which Homœopathy confers upon Surgery are numerous and varied. I shall commence

by enumerating the Surgical Remedies and their applications, and afterwards if I have space, mention a few diseases which may be called triumphs of Homeopathic Surgery.

Heading the list is the venerable Panacea Sapsorum Arnica Montana.

Arnica is suitable to sanguine plethoric persons, with lively complexions, disposed to cerebral congestions, and it has but feeble action on persons that are positively debilitated, with impoverished blood, and soft flesh. The pathogenetic characteristic symptoms are a feeling in the muscles as if bruised and contused, with lacerating pain from below upwards, principally by gravitated by motion.

Arnica is a specific remedy in falls,

blows, and all affections which come under the head of contused wounds; and it may be used with great advantage in gunshot wounds, especially that interesting class which result from what is vulgarly called "the mind of the ball" when the skin is unbroken, the muscles bruised, and the bone unbroken. Arnica by the totality of the symptoms especially those of the head, represents the symptoms which occur in concussion of the brain; and since it is such a powerful absorbent of the exuded lymph on the exterior of the body, I judge, that if immediately administered, it may prevent the exudation which is so ominous of Compression of the brain. Antidotes are Ignatia, Camphor.

and Coccalus, though I think that the safest mode is to give the suitable dose of the suitable remedy in the suitable case, and then no evil consequences may be dreaded.

Spigelia Anthelmia corresponds to the chronic form of the maladies, for which in the acute form Arnica is the specific remedy. I used it with success in a troublesome cough and a variety of symptoms, which I traced to the "thumping" of the knapsack on the shoulder. The patient was an American Soldier who had served in the Mexican war. Arnica was given before Spigelia.

Rhus toxicodendron. While Arnica has specific action on the muscles and cellular tissue, Rhus has powerful action

on the membranes and integuments. The characteristic pains are tearing, tensive, and drawing pains, worse during rest, aggravated on commencing to move, and relieved by continued motion; pale reddish swelling, with intolerable creeping and throbbing accompanies the pains. The proper field of action of Rhus is sprains and strains of the joints, and it has special action on the knee and hip-joints. Antidotes are Rhododendron and Ledum.

Staphysagria has been often recommended by Hahnemann for incised wounds, but I am not aware that it has been much used.

Ruta graveolens has been successfully

used in bruises of the osseous system, and mechanical injuries of the ligamentous system especially of the wrist and ankle joints

Ledum palustre. is especially indicated when a violent and uncontrollable shivering accompanies the injury.

This remedy has the same relation to punctured wounds, that Arnica has to contused wounds, and it is an excellent remedy in bites of various animals. Dr Teste cites the following cases illustrative of its use: — "1st, several wheltows, which had been caused by pricks with the needle, or by stings of insects; 2nd, a violent bite of a water-rat at the index-finger of the right hand, in a young man who

was catching crabs; 3rd, a serious wound in a young lady, who fell with an embroidering needle in her hand, which was pierced through and through. No hæmorrhage had resulted from this accident; but I observed in the patient this intense cold which accompanies and characterizes the Delirium Tremens. In from six to seven days the patient was cured."

In accordance with these indications I have found it a specific remedy in bites of mosquitoes of which the following amusing instance is related by my friend Dr Harry Thomas of Chester, England, in his work, "Contented Remedies for Accidents:—" Whilst in Canada in the autumn of 1834, some

of my English friends were complaining bitterly of the Mosquitoes that were busily humming round us. Much ridicule had passed respecting Homoeopathy.

Having previously seen and felt the effects of Sedum, I determined to give them all proof positive that the little doses were sufficiently large to cure. I then explained to them the meaning of the fifteenth potency, and sent a messenger over to the American side of the river for a bottle of Sedum globules, fifteenth potency, all present there were eight, eagerly tried the cure, having no faith in its efficacy, when strange to say, almost before the solution of the globules in their mouth, they had lost the intole-

-able itching, which invariably accompanies mosquito bites, and generally lasts for weeks; thanks was voted to Homœopathy, accompanied with regret that they had not been previously aware of its powerful medicines."

Much more important than its power of curing "skeeter bites," is the fact that it is a complete antidote to the Rhus poisoning. Of this I may be allowed to relate the following illustrative cases. A man of 40 years, for some slight affection of the knee, had been dosed with Rhus too externally and internally. A violent poisoning followed, and the man became alarmed. I counselled the external and internal use of Ledum palustre,

and a cure was effected in five days.

A young man of 21 years, while going through a swamp, came within reach of the poisonous emanations of Rhus, and when I saw him, his head and face were enormously swelled, the eye being out of sight, and the well-known eruption covered the side of the head and face. I gave Lobum externally and internally and a cure followed in twenty-four hours. I could relate other cases, these may suffice.

Calendula Officinalis and Arnica belong to the Natural Family Corymbiferæ, the Calendula being commonly called African Marygold, while Arnica is known as the Alpine Marygold. Therefore, in

accordance with the natural law to which I have already alluded, we may suppose that the clinical results obtained from these two remedies would be very similar; and accordingly we find that as Arnica is the leading remedy in contused wounds, so Calendula is the leading remedy in lacerated wounds, and it is stated on good authority, that Calendula either prevents or very much shortens the suppurative process, and that it effects the healing of wounds without leaving any prominent eschar. On my return from College in 1856, I was called one bitter cold morning to a "Surgical case" of some interest. Some dogs had attacked two valuable flocks of sheep, and mangled

them very much. When I came to them about twenty-five were lying on the snow unable to move, and many of them with the trachea and great vessels of the neck exposed. I dressed the wounds precisely as I would have done on the human subject, with a weak solution of Arnica or Calendula as each remedy was indicated, and administered internally a weak solution of China. The effects of these remedies was astonishing, miserable wretches with their heads almost hanging off, got up and walked about, and in a short time ate their usual food, the wounds healed kindly, and many recovered that had apparently beyond hope.

This case was curious to me as illustrating

the advantages resulting from the use of Camphor in extreme cold.

I was exposed from about 6 a.m. till 9:30 p.m. in an open log barn, when the thermometer was far below Zero.

I was stripped to the shirt and pantaloons, and got I was quite warm and able to use my hands, because I had taken a drop of Camphor before going out.

Hypericum Perfoliatum has proved useful in traumatic injuries of the nerves, and I know that it has been successfully used in convulsions of children, caused by knocking against any thing, and accompanied by excessive sensitivity of the nerves.

Of all the various remedies of our Materia Medica Cantharides is certainly the remedy for burns, and any one

who has seen the effects of an Old School Blister will be anxious to try its effects, and he will not be disappointed. It is also a leading remedy in frost bites.

Symphytum Officinale L. has been used in fractures of bones to facilitate their reunion. I have little confidence in this remedy, and considerations of a chemical and physiological nature induce me to put my trust in Calcarea Carbonica and Calcarea Phosphorica.

I intended to cite a few diseases in which Homeopathic Surgery shows its superiority over the Allopathic Surgery, but time and space forbid, so I will briefly mention a few of the benefits which Materia Medica confers upon Obstetrics, and then conclude.

Medical treatment is required during three stages; 1st during pregnancy, 2nd; during parturition, 3rd subsequent to that event. I purpose saying a few words on each of these conditions.

1st. During pregnancy. A leading sign of pregnancy is "Morning Sickness," which is usually very intractable under the "Regular" treatment. Homoeopathic therapeutics are as simple as they are successful. The leading remedy is undoubtedly Nux v. Ipec. may be used if vomiting of bile, also Cuts. Sepia if the patient is of an amorous temperament and subject to derangement of the Uterus, and Conium if the Uterus is or has been the seat of organic disease. Chi is indicated if severe prostration follows the vomiting.

and lately the Oxyd of Nitrate of Rhodium has been highly recommended, though I am unable to give the exact indications.

Constipation is relieved Nux v. Bry. Sulph. Lyc and Alumina; and diarrhoea by Puls, Calc. Spec. Chs. and Cham. Colic of pregnant females Nux v, Colo. Cham. and Puls.; and the troublesome sleeplessness by Coff. Cham. and Bell. Odontalgia requires Cham. Puls. Coff. Nux. Bell. Sep. and Staphy. Against the longing for improper food Homœopathy opposes several remedies of which Sulph is the Chief. Arnica for an excessive longing for vinegar. Coc for Cantharis. for salt. Nitric acid for lime and plaster. Chs. Puls. Sulph and Lach for brandy. Cramps are readily removed by Camph. Verat. Cupr. Nux + Coff.

and for the troublesome yellow spots on the face give Sulph. Sep. and Lyc.

Retention of urine is overcome by Puls Nux. Camph. and in extreme cases by Canth.; while incontinence of urine yields to Sulph. Sep. Puls. and Bell. The false pains which cause so much alarm are readily dissipated by Puls. or else converted into real ones. During labor violent cerebral congestions frequently take place, which if not checked may proceed to Apoplexy. Remedies are Acon. Bell. and Opium. When the uterine pains begin to slacken, and the woman is feeble, anemic, exhausted and despairing, give Secale in a high potency.

Pulsatilla, also pretty high, has been recommended for the same purpose.

If the patient is feeble from loss of blood, give China. If the placenta is retained give Puls. Secale according to the indications. Failure of the secretion of milk requires Agnus & Castus. For abscess of the mammæ, leading remedies are Bry. Bell. Merc. Hep. Sil. and especially Graph. and Rhod. Many other indications might be given but sufficient has been said to show that Materia Medica empty a real superiority in the Homœopathic Accouchem.

I would much have liked to added "Chapter IX. History of the Homœopathic Materia Medica." but I am unable to find time, and I doubt if the Faculty would find patience.

I cannot forbear quoting the words of

Uhlemann concludes:— "It strikes its roots deep underground, gains strength imperceptibly, but all the more certainly, and in due time it will grow up to a lofty God's oak, stretching its great arms, that no longer bend to the storm, far away into all regions of the earth, and mankind, who have hitherto been wounded, will be refreshed under its beneficent shadow!"

Thomas Nickel.